CLAIMS

1. A communications network with controlled access to web resources comprising:

an intranet having a firewall and a web enabled resource;

a reverse proxy server for controlling access to said intranet coupled to said intranet and coupled to said web browser enabled client, said reverse proxy server having a database with a record associated with said web enabled resource, said record containing a unique identification number and a random number;

wherein access to said web enabled resource is granted to a web browser enabled client in response to submission of a uniform resource identifier (URI) containing a character string produced by an encoding of said identification number and said random number to said reverse proxy server.

2. The communications network of claim 1, wherein said web enabled resource comprises a printer.

3. The communications network of claim 1, wherein said web enabled resource comprises a hypertext markup language (HTML) document.

4. The communications network of claim 1, wherein said web browser enabled client is coupled to said reverse proxy server by a wireless communications link.

5. The communications network of claim 4, wherein said web browser enabled client is also coupled to said intranet by a wireless communications link.

6. The communications network of claim 1, wherein said URI is submitted using hypertext transfer protocol (HTTP).

7. The communications network of claim 1, wherein said URI is submitted using hypertext transfer protocol with secure socket layer (HTTPS).

8. The communications network of claim 1, wherein said character string is encoded using six bits or less per character.

9. The communications network of claim 8 wherein said character string is encoded using base 64 encoding.

10. The communications network of claim 1, wherein said record further includes a start time designating the time at which access is enabled.

11. The communications network of claim 1, wherein said record further includes an end time designating the time at which access is disabled.

12. The communications network of claim 1, wherein said web enabled resource is a CGI script.

13. The communications network of claim 1, wherein said web enabled resource is contained in a secure container.

14. A method for providing access to a resource on a communications network comprising:

associating an identification number and a random number with said resource;

encoding said identification number and said random number into a first character string using a coding method;

receiving a request for access to said resource, said request including a uniform resource identifier (URI) having a scheme dependent part , said scheme dependent part further including a second character string with a length identical to the length of said first character string;

decoding said second character string into a first number and a second number using said coding method;

comparing said first number to said identification number;

comparing said second number to said random number; and,

granting access to said resource if said first number matches said identification number and said second number matches said random number.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein said URI further includes a query.

16. The method of claim 14, wherein said URI is received using hypertext transfer protocol (HTTP).

17. The method of claim 14, wherein said URI is received using hypertext transfer protocol with secure socket layer (HTTPS).

18. The method of claim 14, wherein said record further includes a start time indicating the time at which said access is enabled.

19. The method of claim 14, wherein said record further includes an end time indicating the time at which said access is disabled.

20. The method of claim 14, wherein said record further includes a log for counting the number of accesses granted.

21. The method of claim 20, wherein said record further includes a limit on the number of accesses.

22. A reverse proxy server for controlling access to a web enabled resource on a communications network comprising:

a database record associating an identification number, a random number and a first character string with said resource, wherein said character string is the product of encoding said identification number and said random number;

a means for receiving a request for access to said resource, wherein said request includes a uniform resource identifier (URI) having a scheme dependent part, said scheme dependent part further including a second character string with a length identical to the length of said first character string;

a processor means for decoding said identification number and said random number into a first character string

a processor means for comparing said first number to said identification number; and

a processor means for comparing said second number to said random number.

23. The reverse proxy server of claim 22, wherein said URI further includes a query.

24. The reverse proxy server of claim 22, wherein said means for receiving a request uses hypertext transfer protocol.

25. The reverse proxy server of claim 22, wherein said means for receiving a request uses hypertext transfer protocol with secure socket layer (HTTPS).

26. The reverse proxy server of claim 22, wherein said record further includes a start time indicating the time at which said access is enabled.

27. The reverse proxy server of claim 22, wherein said record further includes an end time indicating the time at which said access is disabled.

28. The reverse proxy server of claim 22, wherein said record further includes a log for counting the number of accesses granted.

29. The reverse proxy server of claim 28, wherein said record further includes a limit on the number of accesses.

30. The reverse proxy server of claim 22, wherein said web enabled resource is a CGI script.

31. The reverse proxy server of claim 22, wherein said web enabled resource is contained in a secure container.